

Can Trichomonosis be Treated?

- There is no approved treatment.
- Bulls remain persistently infected.
- Most cows clear infection within a few months; a few cows may carry infection to calving.
- Cows with pyometra can remain persistently infected.

A **vaccine for trichomonosis** is available that:

- Helps cows and heifers clear the infection, but does NOT prevent infection.
- In bulls, does NOT prevent or clear infection.



Controlling Trichomonosis

- Maintain a **closed herd**
- Use **separate breeding groups**
- Use young, virgin bulls
- **Culture all bulls yearly** before breeding
- Use artificial insemination

If one or more bulls in your herd is infected, contact your veterinarian about control programs.

**Testing, culling, and vaccination
can be used to help manage
Trichomonas foetus.**

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Animal Health Branch

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Headquarters | (916) 654-1447 |
| Redding District | (530) 225-2140 |
| Modesto District | (209) 491-9350 |
| Tulare District | (559) 685-3500 |
| Ontario District | (909) 947-4462 |

http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Animal_Health_Home.html

California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratories

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|----------------|----------------|
| Davis | (530) 752-8700 |
| Fresno | (559) 498-7740 |
| Tulare | (559) 688-7543 |
| San Bernardino | (909) 383-4287 |

UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Extension

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| Davis | (530) 752-0853 |
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United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services

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| Sacramento | (916) 854-3900 |
| Toll Free | (877) 741-3690 |

California Cattlemen's Association

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| Sacramento | (916) 444-0845 |
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<http://www.calcattlemen.org>



Developed by the State of California, Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health and Food Safety Services, Animal Health Branch, 1220 N Street, Room A-107, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (916) 654-1447.

Additional formats available upon request.

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**Animal Health and Food Safety Services
Animal Health Branch**

Trichomonosis Program in California



Overview for Cattle Producers

October 2007

What is Bovine Trichomonosis?

Bovine trichomonosis is a **venereal disease of cattle caused by the protozoa *Trichomonas foetus***. This organism lives in the folds of the penis and internal sheath in bulls, and colonizes the vagina, cervix, uterus and oviducts in cows. Trichomonosis can affect all cattle; however, disease is more recognized in beef herds.



Trichomonosis Laws

Trichomonosis poses a serious economic threat to California's beef herds. In response to this issue, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and the Western United Dairymen jointly sponsored legislation for the development of programs to prevent and control cattle diseases such as trichomonosis.

The CCA drafted the California Bovine Trichomonosis Control Program, and CDFA prepared regulations to support the program. These laws became effective in September 2003, and were modified in October 2007.



California's Trichomonosis Program

- Veterinarians, laboratories, or owners **must report cases of trichomonosis to CDFA within two days of diagnosis.**
- Veterinarians must be approved to sample for trichomonosis and clinic laboratories must be approved to read tests.
- **All trichomonosis tests are official tests.**
- **All negative tests must be reported to CDFA within 30 days.**
- Samples should be collected from bulls after ten days without contact with mature female cattle.
- Veterinarians or owners may request positive samples have confirmatory tests because false positive results can occur, particularly in young, group-raised bulls.
- CDFA will investigate cases, notify owner(s) of potentially exposed cattle, and **quarantine bulls in affected and exposed herds.**
- **Bulls from affected herds** require three negative tests at least seven but not more than 28 days apart to move anywhere but slaughter.



- **Bulls from exposed herds (neighbors)** require one negative test before movement.
- **Bulls 18 months of age and older**

entering California require a negative test within 60 days unless entering for slaughter, semen collection, or exhibition (must not commingle with female cattle).

- **Bulls 18 months of age and older sold at California saleyards** require a negative test within 60 days before sale or be consigned for slaughter only.
- **Bulls entering California on a Pasture-to-Pasture permit** require a negative trichomonosis test within 12 months.

How is Trichomonosis Spread?

Bulls spread trichomonosis from cow to cow during natural service. Bulls over four years of age are typically the main reservoir of infection in a herd. However, younger bulls can be affected and spread disease. In rare cases, infection is spread during artificial insemination by contaminated insemination equipment, semen, or non-hygienic procedures.



Signs of Trichomonosis in Herds

- Repeat breeding
- Extended calving season
- Early abortion (too early to find a fetus)
- Occasional late-term abortions
- A high percentage of open cows at pregnancy exam (20-50 percent or more)
- Pyometra (pus-filled uterus) in about one percent of cows

Bulls DO NOT show signs of trichomonosis.

CA Bovine Trichomonosis regulations and general information are available online:
http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Trichomonosis_Info.html

Lists of "Trichomonosis Approved" veterinarians and laboratories are available from CDFA.

If you would like additional information about testing your herd for Trichomonosis, please contact your local veterinarian.